

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information service offering system for realizing a service to receive information from contributors through a network and to offer the contributed information to a third party for pay, the information service offering system comprising:

communication units for contributors;

communication units for planners who plan services;

communication units for service users who will purchase contributed information;

an information sharing server; and

a service execution device which executes provision of information to a service user on the basis of a request from the service user, wherein:

the communication units for the contributors, the communication units for the planners, the communication units for the service users and the information sharing server are communicably connected to each other through a network;

the information sharing server comprises:

a plan registration device which registers information about each of the planners at a request from the planner;

a plan exhibition device which shows planned pages opened by the planners to the service users;

a contributor management device which manages the contributors who contribute information to the planned pages;

a contributed information management device which manages the information contributed by the contributors;

a service management device which accepts orders from the service users and manages in accordance with each order the corresponding service executed by the service execution device;

a profit management device which manages a profit obtained as a charge for use of each service;

a service use instance totalization device which totalizes instances of use of the service registered on the information sharing server and developed by each planner and instances of use of the contributed information with respect to each planner and with respect to each contributor; and

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a profit return amount computation device which computes, on the basis of the results of totalization obtained by the service user instance totalization device, an amount of money to be returned to each planner and an amount of money to be returned to each contributor as portions of a profit made by setting the contributed information;

each of the communication units for the planners includes a device which transmits, to the information sharing server, data for application of registration of each planned page and the corresponding planner information in the information sharing server;

each of the communication units for the contributors includes a device which transmits, to the information sharing server, contributed information treated as an object to be offered for pay and corresponding contributor information; and

each of the communication units for the service users includes a device which transmits order data for purchasing desired contributed information by accessing the corresponding planned page opened by the planner.

2. The information service offering system according to claim 1, wherein:  
the planned page of each planner is opened on the information sharing server; and  
the information sharing server provides planned page making assistant device which assists the planner in constructing the planned page on the information sharing server.
3. The information service offering system according to claim 1, wherein:  
a contract relating to the amount of money to be returned is made at the time of planner registration and at the time of contributor registration; and  
the amount to be returned is computed in accordance with the contract.
4. The information service offering system according to claim 1, wherein the information sharing server further comprises a device which periodically notifies each planner and each contributor of the results of totalization obtained by the service use instance totalization device.
5. An information service offering method in which a planner is assisted in realizing a service when the planner develops the service by receiving information from contributors through a network and by selling the contributed information to a third party, the method

comprising the steps of:

preparing an information sharing server and a service execution device which actually offers a service user some of services planned by planners and registered in the information sharing server, and inviting registration of plans in the information sharing server;

registering information about each planner planning a service on the information sharing server at a request from the planner;

opening a planned page for development of the service planned by the planner;

accepting contribution of information from contributors through the planned page;

registering information about each contributor on the information sharing server;

storing and managing the information contributed by the contributors;

accepting an information purchase order from a service user through the planned page;

executing the service to provide, by the service execution device, the contributed information designated by the order from the service user;

performing settlement of a charge for the service offered to the service user;

totalizing instances of use of the service registered and developed by each planner and instances of use of contributed information with respect to each planner and with respect to each contributor;

computing, on the basis of the results of totalization in the totalization step, an amount of money to be returned to each planner and an amount of money to be returned to each contributor as portions of a profit made by the service of providing the contributed information; and

returning portions of the profit to each planner and each contributor according to the results of computation in the computation step.

6. An information sharing server, comprising:

a plan registration device which registers information about each of planners at a request from the planner, the planner planning to develop a service by accepting information from contributors through a network and by selling the contributed information to a third party;

a plan exhibition device which shows planned pages opened by the planners to the service users;

a contributor management device which manages the contributors who contribute information to the planned pages;

a contributed information management device which manages the information contributed by the contributors;

a service management device which accepts orders from the service users via a network and manages in accordance with each order the corresponding service executed by a service execution device;

a profit management device which manages a profit obtained as a charge for use of each service;

a service use instance totalization device which totalizes instances of use of the service registered on the information sharing server and developed by each planner and instances of use of the contributed information with respect to each planner and with respect to each contributor;

a profit return amount computation device which computes, on the basis of the results of totalization obtained by the service user instance totalization device, an amount of money to be returned to each planner and an amount of money to be returned to each contributor as portions of a profit made by selling the contributed information; and

a use instance notification device which periodically notifies each planner and each contributor of the results of totalization obtained by the service use instance totalization device.

7. An information service offering system for realizing a service to offer information to a third party by means of a network, the information service offering system comprising:

at least one planned page opening server which enables each of a plurality of contents providers planning information offering services to exhibit, on the network, information selected as an object to be offered, and enables the planner to individually open a home page for accepting orders from users;

a data storage device which stores digital data forming the information to be offered;

a communication unit which accesses the home page through the network to enable reading of information, input of an order, and transmission of data relating to the input order; and

a service execution device which executes a service by operating associably with

home pages opened by the plurality of contents providers to perform centralized management of orders accepted through the home pages, by converting the information designated by each order into a predetermined form in accordance with the order such as to be receivable by the corresponding user, and by delivering the converted data to the user.

8. The information service offering system according to claim 7, wherein:  
information on an order accepted from a user on each home page is converted into order data in a common format; and  
the order data in conformity with the common format is sent to the service execution device.
9. The information service offering system according to claim 7, wherein:  
the cost of provision of information to a user for pay is determined by each contents provider according to the contents of the information; and  
the order data includes at least information for identification of the contents provider, information showing details of the order and information showing the cost.
10. The information service offering system according to claim 9, wherein the service execution device issues a bill for charging the user an amount of money in the name of the contents provider on the basis of the information for identification of the contents provider and the information showing the cost.
11. An information release service assistance method which assists development of an information release service for releasing information to a third party through a network, the method comprising preparing on the network:  
a planned page provision server for providing a place where a home page for exhibiting information to be offered on the network is opened by each of a plurality of contents providers planning information release services;  
a data storage server which stores digital data forming the information to be offered;  
and  
a portal site server for opening a portal site in which a link to each of home pages opened by the contents providers is registered,

wherein the method provides to each of the contents providers at least one of a service enabling use of the planned page provision server, a service enabling use of the data storage server, and a service enabling registration in the portal site on the basis of a contract.

12. The information release service assistance method according to claim 11, wherein an advertisement service is executed to provide a place for advertisement to the contents provider under the contract for use of the planned page provision server.

13. The information release service assistance method according to claim 12, wherein:  
a service execution device is prepared to assist each contents provider in carrying out an information selling service such that information exhibited on the home page opened by the contents provider is offered for pay at a request from a user, the execution device operating associably with the home pages opened by the contents providers to perform centralized management of orders accepted through the home pages, converting the information designated by each order into a predetermined form in accordance with the order such as to be receivable by the corresponding user, and delivering the converted data to the user; and  
the service execution device executes the information selling service for the contents provider on the basis of the contract.